

**MINUTES OF THE
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, October 7, 2011 –9:00 a.m.– Room 445 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Ralph Okerlund, Senate Chair
Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion, House Chair
Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Benjamin M. McAdams
Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell
President Michael G. Waddoups
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Melvin R. Brown
Rep. Gage Froerer
Rep. Francis D. Gibson
Rep. Don L. Ipson
Rep. Brian S. King
Rep. Todd E. Kiser
Speaker Rebecca D. Lockhart

Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
Sen. Stuart C. Reid
Rep. R. Curt Webb

Members Absent:

Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson
Rep. Christine F. Watkins

Staff Present:

Mr. Jerry D. Howe, Policy Analyst
Mr. Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst
Mr. Leif G. Elder, Policy Analyst
Mr. John L. Fellows, General Counsel
Ms. Kimberly A. Heiner, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Sumsion called the meeting to order at 9:24 a.m.

2. Redistricting Plans - Committee Discussion and Action

Sen. McAdams distributed and discussed "Congress: McAdams Compromise" and explained the rationale of the plan. He said that although this map is not the ideal way of dividing Utah, it is a good compromise. He said the map preserves communities while respecting the desire of the majority party to keep a rural and urban mix. He responded to questions from the Committee.

Rep. Froerer distributed and discussed "Froerer Modification to S.B. 3002" and explained the rationale of the plan. He said this plan keeps Salt Lake City whole. He responded to questions from the Committee.

Chair Sumsion presented "Waddoups 'Military and Salt Lake City Whole' Modified by Sumsion" and explained the rationale of the plan. President Waddoups said that he had also distributed a copy of his original "U.S. Congressional - Waddoups Military and Salt Lake City Whole" and said that he liked the changes that Chair Sumsion made to the map. Rep. King said that he was concerned that this map splits Salt Lake County four ways.

Rep. King distributed and discussed "Congress -- King_01" and explained the rationale of the plan. He said that this plan was modified from "Congressional - Garber D." Rep. King said that an urban rural split is not the best approach for Utah, but since the Committee seems set on going that route, this plan reflects more logical splits. Rep. King said that he thought it was important to use a map submitted by a citizen as a base map. Speaker Lockhart said that this map gives a good illustration of the kinds of compromises that will need to be made on the congressional map. Sen. McAdams said that this map is a sincere attempt to minimize splits between cities and communities of interests. Rep. Barrus expressed

concern with the map because of the way it splits Davis County. Rep. King responded to further questions from the Committee.

Rep. Newbold distributed and discussed "Newbold Modifications to S.B. 3002" and explained the rationale of the plan. She said this map was a modified version of the plan that passed in the Senate.

Speaker Lockhart distributed and discussed "Lokhart_11" and explained the rationale of the plan. She said that this plan created modifications to SB3002.

Chair Sumsion discussed "Anderson_01" congressional plan submitted by Sen. Casey Anderson on RedistrictUtah.com.

Chair Sumsion then discussed "Sumsion 13 - Box 3 Map." He said that this plan was created by starting from the corners of the state and working toward the middle of the state. He said this plan changes the district boundaries in northern Utah.

Chair Sumsion also discussed congressional map "cong3" created by Rep. Dougall.

Mr. Quang Dang, citizen, thanked the Committee for allowing the public to provide input. He said that using an urban and rural approach is not a guiding principle that the Committee adopted. He also said that the Committee should not allow the Governor's comments on redistricting to supercede the Committee's adopted principles. Mr. Dang expressed the opinion that an independent commission would not change the difficulty of the redistricting process because any plans an independent commission recommended would still have to go through the Legislature to be approved. He said that a fair plan to him means that the ruling majority listens to the minority and compromises.

Ms. Rachel Carter, Peaceful Uprising, said that Peaceful Uprising supports a fair redistricting process and is against maps drawn for partisan purposes.

Ms. Mary Bishop, Chair, Salt Lake County Democratic Party, said that her organization expects Democrats and Republicans to work together in this redistricting process. She said that the public wants redistricting to be an open process and asked the Committee to be willing to compromise on maps.

Ms. Kelli Lundgren, Represent Me Utah, said that she liked Rep. King's "Congress--King_01" map. She also endorsed the "Congress: McAdams Compromise" map because it was the best compromise map presented.

Ms. Jody Rosenblatt, citizen, said she does not want Salt Lake City to be divided because the city has little in common with rural areas. She also expressed support for Rep. King's and Sen. McAdam's proposed maps.

Ms. Sue Connor, Represent Me Utah, said that she supports the "Congress: McAdams Compromise" map because it will give a rural and urban mix without diluting the voice of Salt Lake City residents. She also said that she supports Rep. King's "Congress -- King_01" plan.

Rep. Carol Spackman Moss, House District 37, said that Rep King's modified Garber "Congress --

King_01" and "Congress: McAdams Compromise" gives Holladay, and the surrounding communities of interest, good representation. She expressed concern for the "Froerer Modification to S.B. 3002" map because of the way it combines Holladay with Weber County.

Mr. Jim Dabakis, Democratic State Party Chair, thanked the Committee for months of hard work traveling around the state. He said the Committee has a responsibility to represent all of the voters in the state. He asked the Committee to have no more closed meetings where maps are internally discussed. He also said the Committee should drop the pretext that redistricting hasn't come down to raw political force and to admit that it is about getting the Republican percentages to keep the Republicans in power. He asked the Committee to be fair and reasonable in drawing congressional maps. He responded to questions from the Committee.

President Waddoups said that both Republicans and Democrats are drawing maps behind closed doors, but that these maps are brought to public meetings to be discussed in public. President Waddoups said that no seat belongs to a Democrat or a Republican, but belongs to the public. He said whatever party puts up the best candidate will win.

Rep. Gibson said that House caucus meetings are open to the public, with few exceptions. He said that no maps were drawn during Tuesday's special session and that the caucus was closed that day in order for Republicans to discuss and argue in private.

Speaker Lockhart asked Mr. Dabakis if he had been in the redistricting map drawing rooms. Mr. Dabakis said that he had been in those areas.

Sen. McAdams referred to a newspaper article in the Daily Herald that said that some people think that Republicans are trying to make the districts less Democratic to make it more difficult for Rep. Matheson to be re-elected in 2012.

Rep. Newbold called for a point of order to request the Committee to discuss maps, not candidates. Chair Sumsion said that the Committee would do that.

Ms. Jenny Pathak, Represent Me Utah, said that she liked the "Congress: McAdams Compromise" and "Congress -- King_01" plan.

Ms. Kim Higginson, Represent Me Utah, said she does not want a map drawn for partisan support. She said she supported the "Congress: McAdams Compromise" and "Congress -- King_01" plans.

Mr. Curt Bentley, Layton resident, said that it is clear that the Committee has done a lot of hard work. He said that because so many congressional maps have been proposed with acceptable deviations, the Committee has the opportunity to look at the maps based on other redistricting principles, such as compactness. He said that the Garber-King "Congress -- King_01" map represents the best political compromise that maintains the redistricting principles.

Rep. Fred Cox, House District 32, discussed "Fair 4 Utah," submitted by Leonard S. Plazier on RedistrictUtah.com. He said that this plan only splits one county. He responded to questions from the

Committee.

Mr. Jim Struve, citizen, said that whatever congressional map is adopted should allow for a large majority of people to feel like voting. He said voter turnout should be the overriding redistricting goal, not who gets re-elected.

Mr. Jake Anderegg, Lehi resident, said that Salt Lake County must be split based on the population numbers. He expressed support for the "Fair 4 Utah" map. He expressed the opinion that most people who draw maps do not intend to gerrymander, but at some point in drawing, they get stuck and have to divide areas. He said they try to divide areas as clean as possible, but what is fair to one person, is not going to be viewed as fair by everyone.

Mr. Brett Garner, Davis County Democratic Party Chair, asked the Committee to reconsider some previously introduced plans that do not divide Davis County, such as President Waddoups's Plan J and Rep. Sumsion's Plan H. Rep. Barrus said that the Committee has tried not to divide counties, but since Davis County is the third largest County, it would have to be divided.

Mr. Ken Froehle, Represent Me Utah, said that he supports the Waddoups compromise map because it takes into consideration Native American lands. He said that the "Congress: McAdams Compromise" map could also be modified to consider Native American lands.

Ms. Julie Dole, Salt Lake County Republican Party Chair, said that she had heard from many citizens who were grateful that the Committee listened to public comment and made changes to plans. She said that the Republican Party was not going to recommend a particular map and trusted the Committee to listen to public input and make good choices. Sen. McAdams asked her if she had an opinion on how many times Salt Lake County should be split. She said that it is more important to keep the smaller counties whole than it is to keep Salt Lake County whole. Sen. McAdams said that it is vitally important that Salt Lake County have a representative that understands urban issues.

Mr. Glen Wright, Fair Boundaries, said that he is concerned about a recent news report that suggested that the Redistricting Committee is trying to create at least four congressional districts with at least 62% Republican voters. He said that he is concerned that the Redistricting Committee may be deviating from its own redistricting principles. He said that there has been long discussions on rural vs. urban districts, and he said that he believes this is simply a smoke screen to create partisan districts. He discussed the pro's and con's of several proposed plans. He responded to questions from the Committee.

Ms. Crystal Young-Otterstrom, Utah Cultural Alliance, said that when the boundaries are drawn in a way to dilute minority voters, some groups have difficulty reaching their representatives because the representatives do not feel an obligation toward them. She also asked about a recent newspaper article that quoted Chair Okerlund as indicating that the overriding design of the House was to get 62% Republican voters in each district. Sen. McAdams and Sen. Davis both said that Chair Okerlund has been very bipartisan during the redistricting process. Chair Okerlund said that his comments were taken out of context.

Ms. Young-Otterstrom asked Rep. Froerer why he split the east side of Salt Lake City the way that he did in the "Froerer Modification to S.B. 3002." Rep. Froerer explained that it was an effort to keep Salt Lake

City whole, which required adjustments to other areas of the state.

Rep. Ipson said that during the closed House Majority Caucus on the last day of special session there was only discussion on already proposed maps, and that no new maps were drawn. He also said that the Committee has operated in a bipartisan manner and expects that process to continue.

Sen. McAdams asked Rep. Ipson if the closed caucus discussed prospective partisan make-up of the proposed maps. Rep. Ipson said that the caucus discussed maps that had already been drawn and that no particular map was given credence based on the political data.

Sen. Van Tassell said that he appreciates the maps that have been proposed today, but in light of the fact that the Senate has already passed a bill, he did not think the Committee would be able to get much more accomplished today.

Sen. Reid reminded the Committee that the Senate passed S.B. 3002, which had previously been approved by the Committee in a public process. He said if the House would like to amend or substitute the Senate's proposal then it should so do, but S.B. 3002 should be the map under consideration.

3. Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Davis motioned to adjourn. The motion passed with Rep. Barrus voting in opposition.

Chair Sumsion adjourned the meeting at 11:45.a.m.